Judy Sein Kim

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Academic Appointments

2025 – Current   Assistant Professor
American University
Department of Psychology

2022 – 2025   Postdoctoral Research Associate
Princeton University
Department of Psychology & University Center for Human Values

2020 – 2022   Postdoctoral Fellow
Yale University
Department of Psychology

Education

2014 – 2020   PhD, Cognitive Psychology
Johns Hopkins University
Psychological and Brain Sciences

2009 – 2013   BA, Linguistics & Psychology, magna cum laude
Georgetown University

Peer-Reviewed Publications

*: joint first-authors, +: advised undergraduate students

1. Wang, Z., Akshi, Keil, S., **Kim, J.S**., Bedny, M. (2025). Constructing meaning from language: Visual knowledge in people born blind and large language models. *Annual Review of Linguistics*.

2. **Kim, J.S**., & Crockett, M.J. (2025). Low power constrains the space of narratives available to speakers. *Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society Conference*.

3. Raju, M.**+, Kim, J.S.***, Messeri, L. & Crockett, M.J. (2025). Folk epistemological attitudes toward using Virtual Reality (VR) to learn about others. *Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society Conference*.

4. **Kim, J.S**.*, Colombatto, C*., & Crockett, M.J. (2024). Goal inference in moral narratives. *Cognition*.

5. Crockett, M.J., **Kim, J.S.**, Shin, Y.S. (2024). Intuitive theories and the cultural evolution of morality. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*.

6. Tian, M. Saccone, E., **Kim, J.S**., Kanjlia, S., & Bedny, M. (2023). Sensory modality and spoken language shape reading network in blind readers of Braille. *Cerebral Cortex*.

7. **Kim, J.S.,** Crockett, M.J. (2022). Narrating the "what" and "why" of our moral actions. *Proceedings of the Cognitive Science Society Conference*.

8. Manalili, M.A.R., Pearson, A., Sulik, J., Creechan, L., Elsherif, M. M., Murkumbi, I., Azevedo, F., Bonnen, K., **Kim, J.S.,** Kording, K., Lee, J., Obscura, Kapp, S., Roer, Jp.P., Morstead, T. (2022). From Puzzle to Progress: How engaging with Neurodiversity can improve Cognitive Science. *Cognitive Science.*

9. **Kim, J.S.,** Aheimer, B.+, Montané-Manrara, V.+, Bedny, M. (2021). Shared understanding of color among sighted and blind adults. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

10. Everett, J.A.C, Colombatto, C., Awad, E., Boggio, P., Bos, B., Brady, W.J., Chawla, M., Chituc, V., Chung, D., Drupp, M.A., Goel, S., Grosskopf, B., Hjorth, F., Ji, A., Kealoha, C., **Kim, J.S**., Lin, Y., Ma, Y., Marechal, M.A., Mancinelli, F., Mathys, C., Olsen, A.L., Pearce, G., Prosser, A., Reggev, N., Sabin, N., Senn, J., Shin, Y.S., Sinnott-Armstrong, W., Sjastad, Hallgeir, Strick, M., Sul, S., Tummers, L., Turner, M., Yu, H., Zoh, Y., Crockett, M.J. (2021). Moral dilemmas and trust in leaders during a global health crisis. *Nature Human Behavior*.

11. Liu, Y.F., **Kim, J.S**., Wilson, C., Bedny, M. (2020). Computer code comprehension shares neural resources with formal logic inference in the fronto-parietal network. *eLife*.

12. Damera, S., Martin, J. G., Scholl, C., **Kim, J.S.**, Glezer, L., Malone, P. S., & Riesenhuber, M. (2020). From shape to meaning: evidence for multiple fast feedforward hierarchies of concept processing in the human brain. *NeuroImage*.

13. **Kim, J.S.**, Elli, G., Bedny, M. (2019a). Knowledge of animal appearance among blind and sighted individuals. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.*

14. Glezer, L., Jiang, X., Luetje, M., Napoliello, E., **Kim, J.S.,** Riesenhuber, M., Eden, G. (2019). An fMRI-adaptation study of phonological and orthographic selectivity to written words in adults with poor reading skills." *Brain and Language*.

15. **Kim, J.S.**, Kanjlia, S., Merabet, L. B., & Bedny, M. (2017). Development of the visual word form area requires visual experience: Evidence from blind Braille readers. *The Journal of Neuroscience.*

16. Malone, P. S., Glezer, L. S., **Kim, J.S.**, Jiang, X., & Riesenhuber, M. (2016). Multivariate pattern analysis reveals category-related organization of semantic representations in anterior temporal cortex. *The Journal of Neuroscience.*

17. Glezer, L. S., Eden, G., Jiang, X., Luetje, M., Napoliello, E., **Kim, J.S.**, & Riesenhuber, M. (2016). Uncovering phonological and orthographic selectivity across the reading network using fMRI-RA. *NeuroImage.*

18. Glezer, L.S., **Kim, J.S.**, Rule, J., Jiang, X., & Riesenhuber, M. (2015). Adding words to the brain's visual dictionary: novel word learning selectively sharpens orthographic representations in the VWFA. *The Journal of Neuroscience.*

Other Publications

19. **Kim, J.S.**, Bennett, J., Chen, J., Coman, A., Currie, G., Dahlstrom, M., De Brigard, F., Dennis, A., Dewey, A., Eden, A., Fernandez-Miranda, G., Flores, C., Fowler, Z., Fraser, R., Gentian, A., Green, M., Hadjiandreous, E., Helton, G., Heyman G., Jordan, J., Karg, S., Kornfeld., M., Kukla, Q., Lackey, J., Lagnado, D., Lombrozo, T., McLean, K., Pasupathi, M., Prosser, A.M.B., Rea, M., Rohde, Hm. Singh, M., Sinott-Armstrong, W., Walker, A., Wilkins, L., Wodak, R., Crockett, M.J. (2023). Moral Narratives Workshop Proceedings.

20. **Kim, J.S.**, Elli, G., Bedny, M. (2019b). Reply to Ostarek et al.: Language, but not co-occurrence statistics, is useful for learning animal appearance. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.*

21. **Kim, J.S.**, Elli, G., Bedny, M. (2019c). Reply to Lewis et al.: Inference is key to learning appearance from language, for humans and distributional semantic models alike. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.*

Manuscripts Under Review/In Prep

22. **Kim, J.S.**, & Crockett, M.J. (Under review). Joint optimization of informational and reputational goals in moral narratives.

23. Saccone, E., Akshi., Murty, R., **Kim, J.S**, Tian, M., Kanwisher, N., Bedny, M. (Under review). Visual experience contributes to separation of face and language responses in the ventral stream.

24. Vaida, N+., Fiske, S., **Kim, J.S.,*** & Crockett, M.J.* (In prep). Flipping script: Helpers as villains and hinderers as heroes in moral narratives.

25. Crockett, M.J. & **Kim, J.S.** (In prep). Narratives as evidence and narratives as theory.

26. McClinton, Z.+, Bedny, M. & **Kim, J.S** (In prep). Intuitions about object colors in sighted and congenitally blind adults.

Honors & Awards

2022	*Robert J. Glushko Dissertation Prize* – Cognitive Science Society ($10,000)
2019	*G. Stanley Hall's Scholar's Award* - Johns Hopkins University
2019	*Travel Award* - Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference
2018	*Neurolinguistics Dissertation Fellowship* - Willing Orr Dingwall Foundation ($30,000)
2016	*William L. Clark Teaching Award* - Johns Hopkins University
2015	*Graduate Student Abstract Merit Award* - Society for Neurobiology of Language Conference
2014 – 2017	*Owen Scholars Fellowship* - Johns Hopkins University ($15,000)
2013	*Regent's Citation, Faculty for Languages and Linguistics* - Georgetown University
2011	*NSF Workshop in Cognitive Neuroscience* - University of Pennsylvania
2010	Georgetown Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (GUROP)

Invited Talks

11/2023	"Epistemic vigilance toward moral narratives" Morality Lab, Boston College
10/2023	"How we give, trust, and learn from testimony" Neuroplasticity and Development Lab, Johns Hopkins University
05/2023	"Epistemic vigilance toward moral narratives" Social Cognitive Neuroscience Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

02/2023	"Moral narrative exchange & the fight for epistemic power" with Molly Crockett Mind & Epistemology Workshop, Princeton University
01/2023	"Learning from testimony" Psychology Department Seminar, University of British Columbia
12/2022	"The function and construction of moral narratives" Laurence S. Rockefeller (LSR) Research Seminar, Princeton University
10/2022	"How thoughts are structured" Institute of Cognitive and Brain Sciences (ICBS), UC Berkeley
10/2022	"The function and construction of moral narratives" The Socio-Cognitive Processes Lab, Princeton University
04/2022	"The function and construction of moral narratives" Causality in Cognition Lab, Stanford University
11/2021	"The function and construction of moral narratives" Neuroscience and Social Decision Making (NSDM) Series, Princeton University
10/2021	"Knowledge in the absence of vision" Computational Social Cognition Lab, Yale University
10/2021	"The function and construction of moral narratives" Interdisciplinary Study of Language Evolution (ISLE), University of Zurich
05/2021	"The function and construction of moral narratives" Consciousness Club, University College London
08/2020	"The role of language in how blind individuals learn about the visual world" Learning from Language Workshop, University of Wisconsin, Madison
12/2019	"Intuitive theories of color in blindness" Cognitive Lunch, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
09/2019	"Knowledge in the absence of visual experience" Crockett Lab, Yale University
12/2018	"Blind individuals' knowledge about the visual world." Vision Seminar, Johns Hopkins University
10/2018	"Blind individuals' knowledge about the visual world." Thompson-Schill Lab, University of Pennsylvania

07/2018	"Nature and nurture in neurocognitive development: Insights from studies with blind individuals" Neurobiology of Cognition: Gordon Research Conference
10/2017	"Furry hippos & scaly sharks: Blind individuals' knowledge of animal appearance" Cognitive Science Brown Bag, Johns Hopkins University

Conference Talks

08/2025	"Defending science in 2025 through deep organizing." Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
06/2023	"No right to remain silent: A form of anticipatory epistemic injustice." Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference.
09/2022	"'The Construction of Moral Narratives." Moral Narratives Workshop.
07/2022	"'Visual' knowledge in the absence of visual experience." Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society. Glushko Award Talk.
07/2022	"Narrating the 'what' and 'why' of our moral actions." Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
07/2021	**"**Why blueberries are 'blue': Intuitions about color labels among congenitally blind and sighted adults." Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference.
05/2021	**"**Why blueberries are 'blue': Intuitions about color labels among congenitally blind and sighted adults." Dubrovnik Conference for Cognitive Science.
07/2019	"Understanding color in blindness." Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference.
07/2019	"Understanding color in blindness." Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society.
03/2017	"fMRI-guided theta burst stimulation to the superior temporal cortex impairs sentence processing." Cognitive Neuroscience Society Conference.

Mentorship

2025 – current	Ciera Thacker, undergraduate at American University
2025 – current	Michael Steve Harvey, undergraduate at American University
2025 – current	Jake Isolda, undergraduate at American University
2024 – current	Kamden Hill, undergraduate at Princeton University
2023 – 2025	Naomi Vaida, PhD student at Princeton University

2023 – 2025	Leena Bennetto, undergraduate at Princeton University
	won Departmental Thesis Award
2022 – current	Mira Raju, undergraduate at Yale University
2020 – current	Mafalda von Albensleben, undergraduate at Yale University (senior thesis)
2020 – 2021	Danny Rodriguez, undergraduate at Yale University
2021 – current	Zaida McClinton, undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University
2018 – 2020	Brianna Aheimer, undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University
	received Provost's Undergraduate Research Award
2018 – 2020	Veronica Manrara-Montane, undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University
2016 – 2018	Erin Brush, undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University
2015 – 2016	Esther Kim, undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University

Teaching

Fall 2025	Instructor for Quantitative Methods in Psychology, American University
Fall 2016	TA for Positive Psychology (Justin Halberda), Johns Hopkins U
Spring 2015	TA for Mind, Brain, and Experience (Marina Bedny), Johns Hopkins U
Fall 2015	TA for Foundations of Brain, Behavior, and Cognition (Linda Gorman), Johns Hopkins U
Spring 2014	TA for Altered States of Consciousness (Richard Allen), Johns Hopkins U

Guest Lectures

02/2024	Introduction to Morality, Dr. Larisa Heiphetz, Columbia University
01/2024	Neuroethics, Dr. Ian Peebles, Princeton University
09/2021	Language & Thought, Dr. Barbara Landau, Johns Hopkins University
03/2020	Language & Thought, Dr. Barbara Landau, Johns Hopkins University
01/2019	Introduction to Cognitive Science, Dr. Austin Baker, Rutgers University
2017 – 2018	Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation 101, Johns Hopkins University

Outreach & Service

2025 - current	Glushko Dissertation Award Committee, Cognitive Science Society
2025 - current	Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) member at American U
2024 - 2025	Bargaining Committee member, postdoc union at Princeton (PUPS-UAW)
2024	Conference organizer, Workshop on Narrative Possibilities
2023	Postdoc rep, Council of the Princeton University Community (CPUC)
	Ad-hoc Committee on Sexual Climate, Culture and Conduct (Title IX)
2023	Judge for University Center for Human Values (UCHV) senior thesis prize
2022	Conference organizer, 8-week Virtual Workshop on Moral Narratives
2022 - 2025	Organizer, Princeton University Postdocs and Scholar (PUPS-UAW)
July 2022	Panelist, Neurodivergence & CogSci at the Cog Sci Society Conference
2021	Organizer, Concerned and Organized Graduate Students (COGS)
Aug 2021	Instructor, Yale Psychology Bootcamp (for students applying to PhD)
2020	Lead, Accessibility in Diversity Committee, Yale University
2020 - 2022	Co-lead and founder, Connecticut Tenant Union (CTTU)

2015 - 2018   Instructor, Brain Awareness Week, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
July 2017   Instructor, YouthSlam, National Federation of the Blind
2017 - 2019   Interview Weekend Coordinator, Johns Hopkins University
2012   President, Georgetown University Linguistics Society (GULS)

Ad hoc reviewing

Psych Bulletin & Review, Cognition, Journal of Cognition, PNAS, Cognitive Science, Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience, Frontiers in Human Neuroscience, Neurospychologia, Cognitive Science Society Conference, Society for Psychology & Philosophy Conference